

It is these experiences which become the foundation of her most acclaimed work, a five-volume autobiography. The first book, *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which received a National Book Award nomination, documents her early experiences in Arkansas, Missouri, and California. In the autobiography, she reveals the many hardships she has faced but through which she has persevered. It was through this novel that the world came to understand the obstacles she overcame. Raped at the tender age of 8 she retreated into her own world and would not utter a single word for the next 5 years. But the book also reveals the good in her life such as the birth of her only son, Guy. It is the honesty of her words which draws admirers from politicians, like myself and the President, to those who flock to hear her speak on the lecture circuit.

In her 12 books 6 of which are poetry, she has managed to write about every part of her life, focusing on such universal themes as struggle, success, love, family and identity. Her books have been a commercial and critical success. In 1972, she was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie*, a collection of 39 poems. Her poetry, which also reflects much of her life, explores the South, racial confrontation, and the strength of blacks in the face of hardship. One critic claimed that her poems "are characterized by a spontaneous joyfulness and an indomitable spirit to survive."

Ms. Angelou has also been recognized for her talents on stage and screen. Her performance in "Look Away" garnered a nomination for the prestigious Tony Award. In addition, her work in the mini-series, "Roots", earned her an Emmy Award nomination in 1977. In the same year, she received the Golden Eagle Award for the documentary *Afro-American in the Arts*.

Ms. Angelou continues to work devoting herself to helping shape the minds of your youth. Since 1981, she has been the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. Ms. Angelou's contributions to our national culture are enormous and continue to enrich all our lives.

WILLIAM H. CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL; A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Education has recognized William H. Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough, CA, as a blue ribbon school. As a blue ribbon school, William H. Crocker Middle School serves as a shining example of high-quality education for rest of the country. The school is one of only 266 throughout our entire Nation and only 39 in California to be selected for this high honor.

I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere admiration and congratulations for the wonderful educational environment that Crocker Middle School provides for our young Americans. I am indeed proud to have this outstanding institution in my congressional district.

William H. Crocker Middle School has achieved this high honor through its persistent

and highly effective pursuit of local, State and national education goals. These goals reflect the areas in which our educational institutions across the country are most in need of improvement. Crocker Middle School's remarkable success in overcoming some of the most difficult problems our schools face today makes it a perfect example for schools around the country to follow.

Crocker Middle School has been highly successful in fulfilling the necessary conditions of effective schooling. Through the dynamic and productive leadership of Principal Daniel G. Kreuzer, Crocker Middle School has developed a nurturing teaching environment, a rigorous and engaging curriculum, a safe environment for students and teachers, and a healthy involvement of parents and the community in strengthening educational resources. Students from Crocker convincingly demonstrate the many benefits of a good schooling environment through impressive student performances on measures of achievement, attendance rates, and the varied and ambitious pursuits of graduates of the school.

Crocker Middle School is more than deserving of the recognition it has and will continue to receive as a blue ribbon school. I hope that other schools across the country will be able to learn by the example of Crocker how to confront some of the seemingly intractable problems facing our educational system. I also hope that, in recognizing William H. Crocker Middle School, my colleagues recognize the necessity of making educational excellence one of our highest priorities in the U.S. Congress.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN—TRUE AMERICAN HEROES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Black History Month, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting three true American heroes who will be honored at a special ceremony in New Jersey on February 22.

On that date, as part of the County of Essex African Heritage Month celebration, a tribute will be paid to three Tuskegee Airmen—George Wanamaker, Howard L. Bragg, and George Watson, Jr.

These three men earned a place in history through their heroic actions during World War II when they served with the Tuskegee Airmen, African-American combat pilots who flew over 1,500 combat missions and shot down more than 400 enemy aircraft.

Sadly, in the segregated society of that era, these war heroes were not able to enjoy the full rights accorded to other citizens when they returned home to the United States. Through their struggles on foreign soil and at home, they remained determined, courageous, and dignified. Today, they continue to be involved in the betterment of their communities.

Their story was the subject of a theatrical production at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC, as well as a television movie which was recently aired.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to these men of

unsurpassed bravery and patriotism who put their lives on the line overseas and confronted racial injustice at home. We recognize their sacrifice and honor them for their service to our country.

MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCES AGREEMENT ACT

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Chairman, today I am introducing the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement Act, which would provide Federal recognition for an alliance formed to protect Mississippi River Drainage Basin fishery resources. By directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a pilot test of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement, or MICRA, the bill is intended to take an important stride in protecting the future well-being of the interjurisdictional rivers of the United States, as well as their valuable fisheries and natural resources.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Interjurisdictional rivers flow between, or are common to, two or more State boundaries. These rivers form large ecosystems that are important to the Nation in terms of both their economic and intrinsic values. The Mississippi River Basin includes the drainage of six such interjurisdictional rivers: the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Red Rivers. Including its tributaries, the basin contains about 98 rivers and small tributaries, sustains approximately 98 fish species, and spans 28 U.S. States.

Many fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin have suffered serious declines over the past few decades. Many States in the basin list numerous native riverine species as threatened, endangered, or nearly eliminated. This is, in large part, due to the interjurisdictional nature of the basin. When rivers that provide critical habitat to a multitude of fish and wildlife cross State boundaries, State-sponsored resources management and preservation programs become hampered. Typically, there is no single entity that has complete responsibility for the fishery resources in the wide variety of rivers and tributaries making up the Basin. This absence of clear jurisdiction allows management of those resources to fall through the cracks.

In addition, as a shared resource, the Mississippi Basin suffers from the problem of the commons. Individual States are often hesitant to invest in interjurisdictional rivers because other States may benefit without contributing themselves. Compounding the problem is the sheer size of the resource base associated with the Mississippi Basin. For decades, States believed that management was unnecessary—the resource was limitless.

The implementation of MICRA has been a positive first step in addressing these problems by serving as a catalyst in bringing managing partners together and combining their economic and manpower resources.

MICRA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Drafted in 1989, the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement was